

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised by only three sections, being a middle section and two lateral sections.

3. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised in that two or more, of the middle section and lateral sections are resiliently flexibly connected to the grip handle so that the section may be resiliently bent out of a plane parallel to the longitudinal and width directions under the action of pressure on the bristles.

Claims 4 and 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised in that the bristle carrying surface of the tip pad forms an angle of 180° - 160° with a surface of the adjacent part of the first link region.

7. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised in that the tip pad extends longitudinally beyond the ends of the lateral sections remotest from the handle for a distance of 15-30% of the length of the toothbrush head between its base end and tip end.

Claims 8 and 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised in that the intermediate pad is located so that all of its bristle face is in the longitudinal half of the head furthest from the tip end of the head.

Claims 11 and 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim 1 claim [1] 24 characterised in that widthways adjacent sections are in contact allowing sliding relative movement of the sections.

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 characterised in that all of the sections are respectively connected to the grip handle by means of a respective flexible neck which extends between the base end of the of the section and an end of the grip handle which is closest to the section.

17. (Original) A toothbrush according to claim 16 characterised in that each section of the head is connected to the grip handle by a respective neck being an integral extension of the section toward the handle, and the neck has a length in the range 0.4 - 1.5 of the length of the head section.

18. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim 16 characterised in that the middle and lateral sections have widthways adjacent sides which taper in their widthways spacing so as to be spaced apart with an air gap between them at their ends closest to the handle, [but] such that middle and lateral sections are in contact at their ends closest to the tip end.

19. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim 17 characterised by an elastomeric material between widthways adjacent parts of necks.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim [20] 24 characterised in that the tip and intermediate pad are longitudinally separated by a distance 1 – 2cm between the centres of the tip and intermediate pads.

22. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim [1] 24 made of a fibre-reinforced plastics material.

23. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim 22 made of polyester fibre-reinforced polypropylene.

24. (New) A toothbrush having a head and a toothbrush grip handle, the head having a base end at which the head is connected to the toothbrush grip handle to thereby define a head-handle longitudinal direction, the head having a longitudinally

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

opposite tip end and comprising three widthways adjacent, longitudinally extending sections from which bristles extend, being a middle section and a lateral section on each widthways side of the middle section, one or more section being resiliently flexibly connected to the grip handle, between widthways adjacent sections being an air gap allowing relative movement of the sections, the middle section longitudinally sequentially consisting of:

the end of the middle section adjacent to the tip end of the head integrally widthways enlarged relative to a longitudinally immediately adjacent part of the middle section longitudinally nearer to the handle to provide a bristle-carrying tip pad adjacent to the tip end of the head having a bristle carrying surface carrying plural tufts of bristles, and which extends across the entire width of the toothbrush head adjacent to the tip end and having a length of 20-50% of the length of the toothbrush head between its base end and top end and extending longitudinally beyond the ends of the two lateral sections,

longitudinally immediately adjacent to the tip pad closer to the handle and integral with the tip pad a single first link region of the middle section relative to which the tip pad is integrally widthways enlarged,

longitudinally immediately adjacent to the first link region and closer to the handle than the tip pad a single region of the middle section which is integrally widthways enlarged relative to the first link region to provide a single intermediate bristle-carrying pad having a bristle carrying surface which carries plural tufts of bristles, and being a region of maximum width of the part of the middle section between the tip pad and the base end of the head, and having a length of 20-40% of the length of the middle section between the tip end of the head and the base end of the head and having 50% or more of its length in the longitudinal half of the toothbrush head closest to the handle,

longitudinally immediately adjacent to the intermediate bristle-carrying pad and integral with the intermediate bristle-carrying pad a single second link region of the middle section relative to which the intermediate bristle-carrying pad is integrally widthways enlarged,

longitudinally immediately adjacent to the second link region and integral with the intermediate bristle-carrying pad a single and closer to the handle an integral resiliently flexible neck connecting the middle section to the grip handle.

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

25. (New) A toothbrush according to claim 2 characterised in that two or more, of the middle section and lateral sections are resiliently flexibly connected to the grip handle so that the section may be resiliently bent out of a plane parallel to the longitudinal and width directions under the action of pressure on the bristles.

26. (New) A toothbrush according to claim 10 characterised in that widthways adjacent sections are in contact allowing sliding relative movement of the sections.

27. (New) A toothbrush according to claim 17 characterised in that the middle and lateral sections have widthways adjacent sides which taper in their widthways spacing so as to be spaced apart with an air gap between them at their ends closest to the handle, [but] such that middle and lateral sections are in contact at their ends closest to the tip end.

28. (New) A toothbrush according to claim 21 made of a fibre-reinforced plastics material.